

Veeseer not only shared his gift for teaching with the students of North Central Area Schools, he also shared his gift of coaching with hundreds of NCA students throughout the years. For 28 years he coached the Jets in many capacities. The lessons he taught his players on and off the field will live on forever. Coach Veeseer led the following teams: 19 years with Varsity Football, 7 years with Junior Varsity Football, 4 years with Girls Track, 3 years with Junior High & Freshman Boys Basketball, 3 years as a referee and one year each with Junior High Girls Basketball and Varsity Boys Track.

Madam Speaker, the dedicated men and women who devote their careers to educating the next generation seldom receive the praise they deserve. I ask that you and my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives join me in thanking these four outstanding individuals for their service and in wishing them well in their retirement.

REMEMBERING VIRGINIA TECH AND COLUMBINE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, Wednesday, April 16, 2008, was the anniversary of the tragic events on the campus of Virginia Tech that took the lives of 32 people and wounded many more. Sunday, April 20, 2008 marked the 9th anniversary of the Columbine High School massacre. These events rank second and third among the deadliest school shootings in the history of the United States. At the same time, from the wreckage has emerged a strong desire to prevent violence of this magnitude in the future.

I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 808, to establish a Department of Peace and Non-violence, because this bill seeks to make non-violence an organizing principle in our society. This cabinet-level department would address the myriad forms of violence that affect our Nation and the global community. As the disasters at Columbine and Virginia Tech have shown, violence has deep and lasting consequences that must be addressed by looking at root causes and endeavoring to find preventative solutions that are both dynamic and comprehensive. The Department of Peace and Nonviolence would provide a systematic tool to accomplish this admirable goal.

We can all agree that violence in our schools, among youth and adults alike, is an ongoing problem that must be addressed. H.R. 808 is a way to address not only violence in our schools but the violence that exists in our homes, workplaces and institutions throughout our communities both nationally and internationally.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI- VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, April 24th, marks the 93rd anniversary of the begin-

ning of the Armenian genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported most Armenians from Turkish Armenia, ordering that they resettle in Ottoman Syria. Many deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the "killing fields" of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Kosovo, and massacres and wholesale destruction of villages in Darfur to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contribution of the Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

With the arrogance of absolute impunity, Adolf Hitler famously urged his commanders to attack Poland with no fear of history's judgment because, as he put it, "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2830, COAST GUARD AU- THORIZATION ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1126, the Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2830, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007. I also strongly support the underlying legislation, which will provide our Nation's Coast Guard with the resources it needs in order to successfully execute all of its missions.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Congressmen OBERSTAR and CUMMINGS, for introducing this bill, as well as the Chairman of the Homeland Security Committee, Congressman THOMPSON, for his leadership on this important issue. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to work with Chairman THOMPSON and offer an amendment during our Homeland Security Committee markup to this important legislation, which I felt improved the bill. My amendment mandated the creation of a strategic plan to utilize assistance programs to assist ports and facilities that are found by the Secretary not to maintain effective anti-terrorism measures. I am also offering an amendment on the House floor today calling on the Secretary of Homeland Security to examine the challenges and delays faced by transportation workers seeking to obtain TWIC cards at enrollment sites and mandates the development of timelines and benchmarks for implementing the findings of this assessment.

As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I believe protecting our Nation by air, land, and sea to be critical to our national security interests. This bill, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007, sets forth various provisions that will be beneficial to our maritime interests, and consequently to our national security. Included in the provisions are the establishments of grants for international maritime organizations, the establishment of the Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee, and codified various provisions relating to Coast Guard personnel matters.

For some years now, I have been concerned about the diversion of Coast Guard resources from their historic missions of search and rescue and marine safety, to homeland security missions. Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and the Coast Guard's inclusion in the Department, one of the greatest challenges has been ensuring that the funds that the Coast Guard have traditionally received in order to perform their duties remain intact so that they can fulfill the responsibilities that American citizens rely on them to perform, namely ensuring the safety of our nations seas, lakes, rivers, and ports.

We have to ensure that the Coast Guard will get their full funding needed to carry out their responsibilities, and that is precisely what this legislation does. This act authorizes appropriations for FY2008 for the Coast Guard. Furthermore, this act also authorizes the FY2008 levels of Coast Guard active duty military personnel and average military training student loans, allowing for sufficient human resources for the Coast Guard to achieve its